



**BioDistrict New Orleans
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, November 20, 2019
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Location: New Orleans Business Alliance
1250 Poydras Street, Suite 2150
New Orleans, LA 70113**

Commissioners Present: Andy Kopplin, Alison Bordelon, Blake J. Stanfill, Gene D'Amour, Sharon Courtney, Harold Gaspard

Commissioners Absent: Michael Hecht, Roger Ogden, Lowry Curley, Larry Hollier

Other Guests: Bonita Robertson (Greater New Orleans Foundation), Joseph St. Martin (1532 Tulane Partners), Sally Lindsay, Stephen Wright (Louisiana BIO)

New Orleans Business Alliance Staff: Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Norman Barnum, Nolan Marshall, Louis David, Jeanette Weiland, Dominique Flugence

- I. Call to Order
The fourth quarter Bio District Board Meeting of 2019 was called to order at 1:10pm.
- II. Roll Call
Andy Kopplin performed a roll call of the Board Commissioners at 1:10pm. Quorum was present.
- III. Adopt Agenda for Board Meeting
Board Commissioners adopted the agenda for the current Board meeting. No comments were made regarding the agenda.
- IV. Introduction of Guest(s)
Chairperson Kopplin had guests introduce themselves, including Bonita Robertson (Greater New Orleans Foundation), and Joseph St. Martin (1532 Tulane Partners).
- V. Call for Public Input Cards on Agenda Items
No public input cards were collected.
- VI. Adoption of Bio District Minutes
The minutes from the third quarter Bio District Board of Commissioners Meeting were adopted. Commissioner Hollier moved and Commissioner Courtney seconded

at 1:10pm.

VII. Financial Report – Ms. Dominique Flugence

As of meeting date, the Bio District Board had a total of \$5,964.10 of expenses year to date 2019. Of that \$4,800 is for the account fees and \$1,164.10 was the board insurance. After expenses, there will be a balance of \$1,450.47. As of the meeting there was a current balance of \$5,014.57 in the bank.

VIII. Chairperson's Report:

Chairperson Kopplin began the report with an update on the Greater New Orleans Foundation and the Greater New Orleans Inc. Spirit of Charity Innovation District Prospectus. Prospectus has been distributed, and Commissioner Kopplin volunteered to distribute to board members.

Sharon Courtney asked if there is a time limit to pursuing Opportunity Zone projects, Chairperson Kopplin said the sooner the better return for investors.

Chairperson Kopplin gave an update on the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District study. Greater New Orleans Foundation has hired Jim Richardson of LSU to complete an analysis. Initial results have been shared with City and State officials. After securing buy-in from those agencies, the analysis will be shared. Recommendations could include Bio District being the TIF partner, using the current Bio District borders and capturing new sales tax growth. Southern Strategies has been engaged to advocate for the plan if it moves forward. The plan could require approvals from City and State executive and legislative branches. Jones Walker is working on Cooperative Endeavor Agreement drafts.

IX. Update on Charity Redevelopment:

Chairperson Kopplin then asked Joseph St. Martin of 1532 Tulane Partners to give the group an update on the Spirit of Charity project. St. Martin says the ground lease between developer and LSU was executed Nov. 8, 2019. The project is about 70% pre-leased with tenants including Tulane University, a charter high school, residential units. Developers expect to adhere to all DBE requirements, and have arranged 30% equity investment from local minority investors. Demolition should begin in January 2020, which will take 6 to 8 months. Construction on exterior improvements should begin September / October 2020. Contractor is McDonald Group. Sharon Courtney noted that Tulane University is working with Spirit of Charity developers to coordinate development of street-level retail in the area. Gene D'Amour asked if LSU was involved, St. Martin said LSU would likely be involved with residential, co-working, and fitness center uses. D'Amour encouraged the developers to coordinate co-working space with New Orleans BioInnovation Center. Nolan Marshall asked if there will be a K-8 school on site, St. Martin said they would be open to that option. Marshall also asked about how the community will be notified of progress, St. Martin replied that the Hawthorne Agency has been contracted to handle community communications.

X. Strategic Plan – Vice Chair Blake Stanfill:

Chairperson Kopplin noted that Blake Stanfill is continuing to work on a strategic plan for the Bio District. That plan will address “what is the plan for the Bio District,” and “what is the plan for Bio in New Orleans.”

Chairperson Kopplin asked for public comments and there were none.

XI. Opportunity Zone Updates (Michael Hecht):

Michael Hecht was not present for the meeting, but Opportunity Zones were discussed in multiple previous topics.

Xi. New Orleans Business Alliance Update – Ms. Jeanette Weiland

Jeanette Weiland began with noting NOLABA’s November 6th announcement of the retention and expansion of three local Bio companies, resulting in 100+ new jobs.

Weiland also noted the upcoming Bio on the Bayou research showcase in cooperation with Tulane, LSU and NOBIC. That event will be held 12/10/19.

Weiland asked Stephen Wright of Louisiana Bio to give an update on his efforts, he said the membership is growing locally and nationally. He and the legislative group have begun conversations for the 2020 session. He has also met with Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and briefed them on the group’s efforts.

Chairperson Kopplin asked Wright if the group has discussed investing pension funds in Bio. Wright said that will be explored.

XII. Other Old Business

No old business was presented.

XIII. New Business

No new business was presented.

XIV. Public Comment(s)

No public comments were submitted.

XV. Adjournment

The third quarter BioDistrict Board Meeting of 2019 was adjourned at 2:00pm.